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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 111740Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5466
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19205

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, UR, YO
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL ON SOVIET-YUGOSLAV
RELATIONS BEFORE HUA VISIT

REF: MOSCOW 19052

SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, LIKE THE ROMANIAN, IS UPSET ABOUT THE SOVIET REPLAY OF THE ALBANIAN ALLEGATION THAT THE CHINESE EARLIER SOUGHT TO FORCE ALBANIA TO ENTER INTO A BALKAN ALLIANCE
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WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA. YUGOSLAV POLITICAL COUNSELOR AT SAME TIME POINTS TO VISITS OF POLITBURO MEMBERS ANDROPOV AND SOLOMENTSEV TO YUGOSLAVIA SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER AS EVIDENCE THAT SOVIETS DO NOT WANT TO UPSET "NORMAL" BILATERAL RELATIONS DESPITE CHAIRMAN HUA'S AUGUST VISIT. END SUMMARY.

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1. YUGOSLAV POLITICAL COUNSELOR TOLD EMBOFF AUG. 11 THAT THE YUGOSLAVS FOUND "UNPLEASANT" THE SOVIET REPLAY OF THE ALBANIAN ALLEGATION THAT THE PRC HAD EARLIER PROMOTED THE IDEA OF A BALKAN MILITARY ALLIANCE INCLUDING YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA. THE YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL BROUGHT UP THE ARTICLE (WHICH HE SAID HAD ALSO BEEN MENTIONED ON SOVIET RADIO AUGUST 9) AFTER DESCRIBING TO EMBOFF THE OVERALL STATE OF YUGOSLAV-SOVIET RELATIONS IN THE PERIOD BEFORE HUA'S VISIT. THE YUGOSLAV CHARACTERIZED RELATIONS AS "NORMAL," SUMMARIZED THE MANY BILATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND SAID THAT POLITBURO MEMBER (AND KGB CHIEF) ANDROPOV AS WELL AS CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER SOLOMENTSEV (RSFSR PREMIER) WOULD BE COMING TO YUGOSLAVIA ON "STATE" VISITS IN SEPTEMBER, THUS CONFIRMING -- IN THE YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL'S VIEW -- THAT RELATIONS ARE PROCEEDING WELL DESPITE HUA'S IMPENDING VISIT.

2. THE YUGOSLAV SAID THAT THE TASS REPLAY OF THE ALBANIAN CHARGE WAS UNEXPECTED SINCE THE SOVIET PRESS CARRIED NO SUGGESTIONS OF OFFICIAL UNEASINESS FOLLOWING TITO'S VISIT TO PEKING LAST YEAR. THE YUGOSLAVS WOULD OF COURSE NOT MAKE ANY FORMAL COMMENT ABOUT THE ALBANIAN ITEM, IN THE FIRST PLACE BECAUSE IT IS NOT "OFFICIAL" BUT RATHER A PRESS CONFIDENTIAL

ITEM, AND SECOND BECAUSE THE SOVIETS WOULD THEN COM-PLAIN ABOUT THE YUGOSLAV PRESS WHENEVER SOME ARTICLE TO WHICH THEY TOOK OFFENSE APPEARED. THE YUGOSLAV SAID HE DOUBTED THE YUGOSLAV PRESS WOULD BE OFFERING COMMENT ON THE SOVIET PRESS' REPLAY OF THE ALBANIAN CHARGE SINCE THIS MIGHT WORSEN THE SITUATION.

3. THE YUGOSLAV EMBOFF HAD NOT NOTED ANY OTHER HINTS OF SOVIET CONCERN ABOUT THE HUA VISIT TO BELGRADE ALTHOUGH HE SAID IT OBVIOUSLY EXISTS. THE SOVIETS HAVE A "PSYCHOLOGICAL" PROBLEM WITH CHINA, HE EXPLAINED, WHICH PREVENTS THEM FROM UNDERSTANDING THAT YUGOSLAVIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES COULD POSSIBLY PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE IN INFLUENCING PEKING'S BEHAVIOR VIS A VIS MOSCOW.

4. THE YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL GAVE NO DETAILS ON THE ANDROPOV AND SOLOMENTSEV VISITS BUT OFFERED THEM AS EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT LET THE HUA VISIT DISTURB IN ANY REAL SENSE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA. TOON

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